



GIG
CYMRU
NHS
WALES

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol
Cwm Taf Morgannwg
University Health Board



Freedom of Information Request: Our Reference CTMUHB_152_25

You asked:

1a: Are plastic bin liners used on psychiatric inpatient wards run by your Trust?

Plastic bin liners are not generally used on psychiatric inpatient wards in the Health Board in non-supervised areas.

Plastic bags are used within clinical areas such as Clinical Rooms and Ward Kitchen. These bags are within locked areas and are used for compliance of safe disposal of food waste and bodily fluids. These are the only areas plastic bags are used to line bins.

There is an exception to the use of plastic bin liners on our Dementia Wards and this is because the risks associated with plastic bin liners are lower in these clinical areas. On our Older Adult Dementia Wards, bin liners are required to manage continence care in line with IPC guidelines.

1b: If they are not allowed, when were they prohibited?

We do not have a record of when plastic bin liners were first required to be removed from patient areas.

1c: How many incidents of inpatient self-harm involving plastic bin liners have there been in the last five years (specifically 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 & 2024)?

Year	Number of Incidents
2020	0
2021	0
2022	0
2023	**
2024	0

Where the figures are less than 5, this has been denoted by **. The exact figures have been withheld due to the low numbers involved.

Where numbers are low we have considered that there is the potential for the individuals to be identified from the information provided, when considered with other information that may also be in the public domain. Also, responses under the Freedom of Information Act are made available to the public at large. The data is classed as personal data as defined under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and Data Protection Act 2018 and its disclosure would be

contrary to the data protection principles and constitute as unfair and unlawful processing in regard to Articles 5, 6, and 9 of GDPR. We are therefore withholding this detail under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. This exemption is absolute and therefore there is no requirement to apply the public interest test.

1d: How many inpatient deaths involving plastic bin liners have there been in the last five years (specifically 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 & 2024)?

No inpatient deaths were recorded involving plastic bin liners for the dates requested.

2a: Are other types of plastic bags (i.e. not bin liners) allowed into psychiatric inpatient wards run by your Trust?

All types of plastic bags are removed from patients when admitted to most Mental Health Unit/setting, with dementia wards being the exception. This is conducted when a nurse searches property to log items of value as per admission procedure. This will include overnight bags, bags for life, sanitary plastic bags, black bags, other domestic or shop plastic bags.

Plastic bags to manage continence care in our Dementia Wards that look after functionally unwell patients use bags such as: Aqua film laundry bags, dissolve bags and patient property bags for clothing. These are all stored and managed in locked areas supervised by staff.

Plastic bags are used to manage continence care in our Dementia Wards where there is a need for increased accessibility throughout the day and night. These include Aqua film laundry bags, dissolve bags and patient property bags for clothing. These are not always locked areas.

There are small plastic bags attached to a piece of equipment that is used on all wards whereby staff monitor physical observations. These are kept in the nursing offices/stations.

2b: If they are not allowed, when were they prohibited?

The Health Board does not have a record of when they were first prohibited.

2c: How many incidents of inpatient self-harm involving plastic bags (excluding bin liners counted above) have there been in the last five years (specifically 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 & 2024)?

	Number of Incident
2022	0
2021	0
2022	**
2023	**
2024	0
Total	**

Where the figures are less than 5, this has been denoted by **. The exact figures have been withheld due to the low numbers involved (Section 40 (2) applies – please see 1c response).

2d: How many inpatient deaths involving plastic bags (excluding bin liners counted above) have there been in the last five years (specifically 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 & 2024)?

There were no inpatient deaths involving plastic bags (excluding bin liners counted above) for the dates requested.